

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A surgical device, comprising:

an elongated shaft having a first coupling; and

a surgical instrument having a second coupling, the second coupling being complimentary to and configured to couple with the first coupling;

wherein the elongated shaft is configured to be inserted into a body via a first orifice and the surgical instrument is configured to be inserted into the body via a second orifice; and

wherein the elongated shaft is configured to be coupled with the surgical instrument via the first coupling and the second coupling after the elongated shaft is inserted into the body via the first orifice and after the surgical instrument is inserted into the body via the second orifice.

2. The surgical device according to claim 1, wherein the first orifice includes at least one of a natural orifice, an incision and a cannula.

3. The surgical device according to claim 1, wherein the second orifice includes at least one of a natural orifice, an incision and a cannula.

4. The surgical device according to claim 1, wherein each of the first orifice and the second orifice includes at least one of a natural orifice, an incision and a cannula.

5. The surgical device according to claim 1, wherein the first orifice is different from the second orifice.

6. The surgical device according to claim 1, wherein the surgical instrument includes a surgical stapler instrument.

7. The surgical device according to claim 1, wherein the surgical instrument includes a surgical stapler/cutter instrument.

8. The surgical device according to claim 1, wherein the surgical instrument includes an anastomosis instrument.

9. The surgical device according to claim 1, wherein the flexible shaft and the surgical instrument coupled to the flexible shaft are configured to be withdrawn from the body via the first orifice.

10. The surgical device according to claim 1, wherein the surgical instrument includes at least one movable element, the flexible shaft including at least one rotatable drive shaft configured to effect movement of the at least one movable element.

11. The surgical device according to claim 10, wherein the first coupling and the second coupling are configured to couple the at least one movable element and the at least one rotatable drive shaft.

12. The surgical device according to claim 10, further comprising an electro-mechanical driver device configured to drive the at least one rotatable drive shaft.

1002250-6822860

13. The surgical device according to claim 12, wherein the electro-mechanical driver device includes a motor system configured to drive the at least one drive shaft.

14. The surgical device according to claim 1, wherein the surgical instrument includes a first movable element and a second movable element, the flexible shaft including a first rotatable drive shaft configured to effect movement of the first movable element and a second rotatable drive shaft configured to effect movement of the second movable element.

15. The surgical device according to claim 14, wherein the first coupling and the second coupling are configured to couple the first movable element and the first rotatable drive shaft and to couple the second movable element and the second rotatable drive shaft.

16. The surgical device according to claim 15, further comprising an electro-mechanical driver device configured to drive the first rotatable drive shaft and the second rotatable drive shaft.

17. The surgical device according to claim 16, wherein the electro-mechanical driver device includes a motor system configured to drive the first rotatable drive shaft and the second rotatable drive shaft.

18. The surgical device according to claim 17, wherein the motor system includes a first motor configured to drive the first rotatable drive shaft and a second motor configured to drive the second rotatable drive shaft.

19. The surgical device according to claim 1, wherein the flexible shaft includes a steering device configured to steer a distal end of the elongated shaft.

20. A method for performing a procedure on a body, comprising the steps of:

- (a) inserting a flexible shaft into the body via first orifice, the flexible shaft having a first coupling;
- (b) inserting a surgical instrument into the body via a second orifice, the surgical instrument including a second coupling complimentary to and configured to couple with the first coupling; and
- (c) coupling the flexible shaft and the surgical instrument via the first coupling and the second coupling after the inserting steps (a) and (b).

21. The method according to claim 20, wherein the flexible shaft and the surgical instrument are coupled in the coupling step (c) intracorporeally.

22. The method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of performing a surgical procedure after the coupling step (c).

23. The method according to claim 22, wherein the surgical procedure includes a tissue stapling procedure.

24. The method according to claim 22, wherein the surgical procedure includes a tissue stapling and cutting procedure.

25. The method according to claim 22, wherein the surgical procedure includes an anastomosis procedure.

26. The method according to claim 20, wherein the surgical instrument includes at least one of a surgical stapler instrument, a surgical stapler/cutter instrument and an anastomosis instrument.

27. The method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of withdrawing the coupled flexible shaft and surgical instrument via the first orifice.

28. The method according to claim 20, wherein the first orifice includes at least one of a natural orifice, an incision and a cannula.

29. The method according to claim 20, wherein the second orifice includes at least one of a natural orifice, an incision and a cannula.

30. The method according to claim 20, wherein each of the first orifice and the second orifice includes at least one of a natural orifice, an incision and a cannula.

31 The method according to claim 20, wherein the first orifice is different from the second orifice.